

The Bay-Delta Urban Coalition

**Solano County
Water Agency**

**East Bay Municipal
Utility District**

City and County of San Francisco **Alameda County
Water District**

Public Utilities Commission **Santa Clara Valley
Water District**

Central Coast Water Authority **Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California**

**Central and West Basin
Municipal Water District**

**Municipal Water District
of Orange County**

**Coachella Valley
Water District**

**San Diego County
Water Authority**

What Urban California Needs from the CALFED Bay-Delta Solution

California's Bay-Delta Estuary is broken, and its degraded state affects both public health and the urban economy. For this reason, the state's urban communities and businesses have a huge stake in CALFED's effort to solve problems affecting California's Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta Urban Coalition¹ represents 11 public agencies that collectively supply water to more than 22 million Californians, and support urban economies that generate more than three-quarters of the state's \$1 trillion gross annual product.

Urban water agencies face significant challenges in providing high quality, reliable water to the public, and these challenges will increase in the future. By 2020, California's population is projected to grow almost 50 percent, to more than 47 million people. Drinking water standards are expected to become more and more stringent. The cost of drinking water treatment and water recycling continues to spiral upward.

The ability of urban water agencies to meet these challenges directly depends on the success of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The Bay-Delta Urban Coalition is committed to the development of a balanced, consensus-based solution that meets the needs of all Californians. For urban California, the CALFED solution must:

- **Improve the quality of drinking water supplies from the Delta in the near and long term.** In the near term (CALFED's seven-year-long Stage 1), CALFED solution must substantially reduce organic carbon, bromide and salinity levels in Delta water. Over the long term, these levels must be reduced so they are comparable with levels in other U.S. metropolitan areas. CALFED must also maintain the quality and reliability of urban water supplies from the watershed surrounding the Delta.
- **Provide long-term protection for the Estuary** that will sustain fish and wildlife dependent on the Bay-Delta. The ecosystem program should be adaptively managed and address all factors that degrade the Estuary.
- **Include additional storage in Stage 1 and the long term** to make the Delta system more flexible and reliable for all beneficial uses. CALFED must strengthen and extend the Bay-Delta Accord, to ensure a stable urban water supply during Stage 1.
- **Recognize that "soft path" actions** – water conservation, water recycling, water transfers and groundwater storage – will not provide the water quality improvements needed to ensure public health.
- **Assure that surface storage, new Delta conveyance facilities, and other facilities remain viable options.** Planning, environmental permitting and other actions for potential projects must be included in Stage 1.

¹ *The Bay-Delta Urban Coalition consists of eleven public agencies including Alameda County Water District; Central Coast Water Authority; Central and West Basin Municipal Water District; City and County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Coachella Valley Water District; East Bay Municipal Utility District; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Municipal Water District of Orange County; San Diego County Water Authority; Santa Clara Valley Water District; and Solano County Water Agency.*

10/8/98